

Public Hearings before the City Council

WHY PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE HELD

Public hearings are held so that the City Council can receive and consider public views before making final decision on important issues. This process allows the public to be heard.

The Council is also required to hold public hearings on matters such as:

- Executive and Legislative Budgets
- Real Property Tax Rules
- General Plan and Development Plan Amendments and Zoning Ordinances
- Appointments of the Managing Director, Department Heads and Members of Various Boards and Commissions

HOW DO YOU FIND OUT ABOUT PUBLIC HEARINGS

A notice providing the date, time, place and nature of the public hearing is published in the legal section of a major daily newspaper at least 10 days before a hearing and on the web at www.honolulu.gov/council.

WHEN AND WHERE PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE HELD

Public hearings are normally held at 2 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3rd floor, Honolulu Hale.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Persons wishing to speak at a public hearing are requested to register by 2 p.m. using the On-Line City Council Speaker Registration form available at www.honolulu.gov/council/agendas.htm or by sending a fax indicating your desire to speak, along with your name, address, phone number and subject matter to 527-6910. You may also register in person or by calling 523-4490.

Registration consists of providing your name, address, phone number, whether you are representing a particular organization or yourself, and the specific hearing. In addition, speakers are requested to provide 15 copies of written testimony.

Testimony is limited to three minutes and shall be presented by the registered speaker only. Written testimony may be submitted by email at www.honolulu.gov/council/agendas.htm or faxed to 527-6910. However, you are requested to register to speak if you wish to provide oral testimony.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may submit your written comments in advance or before the Council finally deliberates on the subject matter.

All correspondence should be addressed to:
Chair and Members of the City Council
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3077

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

The Chair will call the names of speakers in the order that the registration was received by the Clerk's Office. When called, approach the lectern and speak directly into the microphone. Any disabled person requiring special assistance should call 523-4490 for details.

You have three minutes in which to make your presentation before the Council. If your testimony exceeds three minutes, you will be asked to summarize.

HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE

To be effective, you should set down your comments in a prepared statement, being concise, yet accurate. When speaking, you should address the Chair, and state your name, and whether you represent an organization. Then proceed to present your testimony.

If previous testimony represents your views and you have nothing new to add, merely state that you agree with the testimony and that you are prepared to answer any questions. If you are not able to answer a question, state that you will provide the information later, if possible.

HOW TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please call the City Clerk's Office at 523-4480. Bills and resolutions relating to public hearing matters are available on the City's web page at www.honolulu.gov/council. Copies are also available in the City Clerk's Office, located in Room 203 of Honolulu Hale.



Todd K. Apo
Councilmember



Ewa-Ewa Beach-Honouliuli-West Loch
Kapolei-Kalaeloa-Honokai Hale / Nanakai Gardens-Ko Olina
Nanakuli-Wai'anae-Makaha-Keaau-Makua

MONTHLY REPORT

July 2005

Councilmember's Message

Summer is upon us and I want to start by congratulating all of the graduates and their families. I know this is an exciting time for all of you and wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.

At Council, we are finishing up the budget process, continuing on the discussions regarding transportation solutions and the potential general excise tax increase, and starting a discussion on bed & breakfast and transient vacation rental operations. These three topics alone provide a full plate of significant policy issues for the City and City Council to address.

In regards to the potential general excise tax increase, I would like to try to clarify some of the misconceptions I have heard throughout the community. Yes, we are working on Bill 40 right now - however, ***if the increase is approved, it will not take effect until January 2007*** at the earliest. The reason that we need to address this issue now, is that the State legislation puts certain time constraints on the City in order to keep this option open. If we fail to meet those deadlines, we will lose the potential funding mechanism for our transit solutions.

I believe that we must have a definite transit solution plan in place before we actually increase any taxes for mass transit. The City administration has told us that they will complete their analysis and planning by the end of 2006. Therefore, the detailed plan that everyone is asking for will be completed before any excise tax increase occurs in 2007. If we could wait until that analysis was completed before passing Bill 40, I would likely support that. However, under the state legislation and to show our commitment to the federal government who will significantly contribute to the cost of the system, we must continue on the appropriate timeline.

I hope that helps explain some of the situation we have before us. I again thank everyone who has taken the time to email or write with their concerns and thoughts on all of the issues facing our City. Aloha.

YOUR DISTRICT 1 STAFF AT YOUR SERVICE

Todd K. Apo, Councilmember
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Our offices are located at:
Honolulu Hale – 530 S. King St., 2nd Floor
Kapolei Hale – 1000 Uluohia St., Suite 201

Councilmember Todd K Apo
and West-side Solutions

Airing on Olelo Channel 54

Sundays @ 8:30 PM

<div>Eyes on Ewa <i>by Wendy Sefo</i></div>	<div>Working within Waianae <i>by Karen Awana</i></div>
<p>Councilmember Apo recently met with officials from The BUS to discuss bus route accessibility throughout Ewa and Ewa Beach. The meeting provided him with a clearer understanding of the current routes available, the potential for new routes and the factors that must be considered when requests for a new route are received.</p> <p>Recently, Councilmember Apo received multiple inquires from residents living in the Iroquois Point housing area asking for more convenient bus service. Currently, those living in Iroquois housing must make their way out to North Road in order to take advantage of the city's bus service.</p> <p>The officials from the BUS informed the councilman that the current access to the Iroquois housing area via the North Road entrance is time prohibitive – meaning if the spoke buses were to go into and out of the housing area through the existing access gate, drivers would not be able to make the timing connections to the other hub buses traveling to and from Ewa / Ewa Beach.</p> <p>If the military were willing to reopen the gate located at the end of Fort Weaver Road (near Ewa Beach Park), bus service to residents living at Iroquois would be possible.</p> <p>Another topic of discussion was the lack of lighting at the bus stops along Fort Weaver Road in the early morning and night time hours. The officials from the BUS informed Councilman Apo that they were in the midst of undertaking a pilot project to install solar lighting in a variety of locations to determine that feasibility of island-wide installation. They shared that in the past indestructible fixtures had been purchased in an effort to deter vandals from cracking and breaking the fixtures. The officials from the BUS found that instead of breaking the fixtures vandals were spray painting fixtures with black spray paint to diffuse the light. The BUS folks have agreed to include a few of the bus stops along Fort Weaver in their pilot project.</p> <p>For more information on BUS routes and schedules log on to: http://thebus.org</p>	<p>With all of the brush fires plaguing the coast, there are things that we can do as a community to be proactive, helping to minimize the number of brush fires our fire fighters have to deal with every year.</p> <p>One approach is a national program model called Firewise Communities/USA. Firewise Communities/USA is a project of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wild land/Urban Interface Working Team and is the newest element of the Firewise program. It provides citizens with the knowledge necessary to maintain an acceptable level of fire readiness, while ensuring firefighters that they can use equipment more efficiently during a wild land fire emergency. The program draws on a community's spirit, its resolve, and its willingness to take responsibility for its ignition potential.</p> <p>Citizen involvement is the cornerstone of a successful Firewise Communities/USA program. A smaller geographic unit can more easily create a plan that reflects the needs of its specific locale. For this reason, it is important to keep the size of each participating community small. Residents then have the best opportunity to play a role in shaping the community plan and participating in its implementation.</p> <p>Becoming recognized as a Firewise Community/USA begins with the community itself. A community representative completes an on-line request for contact by a Firewise representative on the Firewise Communities/USA web site, at www.firewise.org/usa.</p>

<div>District 1 – FYI (For Your Information)</div>	<div>Keeping Up In Kapolei <i>by Wendy Sefo</i></div>
<p>WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION?</p> <p>The Neighborhood Commission consists of nine members. Four are appointed by the Mayor, four by the City Council, and the ninth member is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. One of the appointees for both the City Council and Mayor and the ninth member must have served on a neighborhood board. Each member serves a five year term.</p> <p>The Commission is responsible for the periodic review and evaluation of the Plan and neighborhood boards, and assists in the formation of neighborhood boards upon request. Administrative services and technical staff to support the mandated functions of the Neighborhood Commission and the neighborhood boards are provided through the Neighborhood Commission Office.</p> <p>FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE Neighborhood Commission Office Kapolei Hale 1000 Uluohia Street, # 312 – Kapolei, HI 96707 Telephone: (808) 692-5170 Fax: (808) 692-5169</p> <p>E-mail: nco@honolulu.gov</p> <p><i>Or visit them on the web at:</i> http://www.co.honolulu.hi.us/ncooffice.htm</p>	<p>An Update from THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL East Kapolei Development Parcel B (HRS 343 FEA-FONSI) District: 'Ewa TMK: (1) 9-1-016:108 (por.) Proposing Agency: State of HI, Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands P.O. Box 1879, Honolulu, HI 96805 Contact: Darrell Ing (586-3844)</p> <p>Determination Agency: Same as above. Consultant: PBR Hawai'i ASB Tower, Suite 650, 1001 Bishop St, Honolulu, HI 96813 Contact: Vincent Shigekuni (521-5631)</p> <p>Status: Final environmental assessment (FEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).</p> <p>Permits Required: Dept. of Army, NPDES, building/grading The State of Hawai'i, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) proposes to develop a community with single-family residential, office, and park and/or recreational uses in Kapolei for qualifying native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Parcel B consists of approximately 92.1 acres of mostly vacant agricultural land that was previously used to cultivate sugarcane. It is identified as Tax Map Key (1) 9-1-016: 108 (portion) and bounded to the north by the proposed University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Campus, to the west by the Kapolei Golf Course, to the east by the proposed North-South Road alignment, and to the south by the proposed Kapolei Parkway and additional DHHL property. Parcel B is within the State Urban District and is generally flat to slightly sloping. Parcel B was included in the <i>East Kapolei Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement</i> for the 1,300-acre area formerly proposed for mostly residential development by the State of Hawai'i, Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawai'i. New on-site infrastructure will be required, including facilities for water transmission and distribution, wastewater collection, traffic circulation, drainage, and electrical and communication systems. Off-site requirements for the proposed project include the extension of Kapolei Parkway from Kapolei Villages to Parcel B, a potable and non-potable (recycled wastewater)water reservoir located at the 215-foot elevation and a water transmission main, drainage channels and detention basins, and a wastewater transmission main from Parcel B to the Kapolei Interceptor Sewer.</p> <p>For additional information log on to the OEQC website http://www.state.hi.us/health/oeqc/notice/notice/08may2005.pdf</p>

District 1 Proposed Capital Improvement Projects 2005-2006

Last month, the City Council considered two measures introduced by Councilmember Apo. Resolution 05-154 relating to Affordable Housing and Unilateral Agreement Requirements; and Bill 29, which establishes a Real Property Tax Incentive for Hazardous Waste Remediation.

Resolution 05-154, CD1, adopted on June 6, 2005, sets out to amend the City’s Affordable Housing and Unilateral Agreement rules to include an “in-lieu” fee alternative for developments. In addition to current affordable on-site housing requirements, this amendment will enable developers to meet the City’s housing mandate through financial contributions towards eligible housing projects. Specifically, housing developments operated by non-profit organizations. The City’s Department of Housing and Community Development at one time utilized a similar “in-lieu” cash option as part of its own affordable housing program. In the late 1990’s, however, the City eliminated its housing department, moved away from developing housing and abandoned the cash “in-lieu” alternative.

Councilmember Apo introduced Resolution 05-154 to demonstrate the City’s on-going commitment to affordable housing initiatives. According to Councilmember Apo, “while it is true the City is no-longer actively in the housing business, we recognize that there is still a need and demand for affordable housing. Utilizing the ‘in-lieu’ option again, will allow non-profit housing developments to receive the financing necessary to get these projects completed and make housing available to our residents sooner.”

Bill 29 creates a stimulus to remediate contaminated land via a Real Property Tax incentive. Once real property is branded “contaminated” with hazardous waste by the State or Federal governments, it often and quickly becomes an idol parcel. For many property owners implementing remediation and carrying tax liabilities for an unproductive parcel is a daunting task. This, at times, results in property taxes for these contaminated parcels mounting to the point of delinquency. The City, fearing the responsibilities of clean up, rarely forecloses on these parcels and instead opts to continuously bill the already delinquent property owner. What ensues is a continuous cycle of assessment and tax delinquency. Bill 29 aims to end this ineffective practice. If adopted, the measure will allow for a new owner of a contaminated parcel to receive a tax credit that is equivalent to the cost of cleaning-up the parcel.

Councilmember Apo proposed the measure because it will encourage both the clean up of hazardous materials as well as productivity for presently contaminated parcels. Additionally, as many of these parcels are zoned industrial or commercial, it is also possible that the City will collect even greater tax revenues from these properties once parcels are put back into use. Later this month, the Council will consider Bill 29 for its final passage.

Both measures, Resolution 05-154 and Bill 29, can be viewed on-line in the Council’s Legislative Branch Collection at <http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/HomePage> The Honolulu City Council is now more than halfway through its annual Budget Review Cycle. Things are expected to wrap up soon with the Council adopting a new City Budget for the 2005-2006